32:5

BAPTIST Informer

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**GBSC THEME**

***"To Convince the Unconvinced to be Convinced...through Education, Missions and Fellowship,"***

*Matthew 28:19-20*

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# 'Power Sundays' Unite Churches to Fight Strokes

*By Jarvis Holliday*



Jarvis **Holliday**

More than 20 Charlotte-area African-American churches recently participated in the Power To End Stroke, an education and awareness campaign created to reduce stroke and the risk of stroke. Coordinated by the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, one of the main objectives of the campaign is to raise critical awareness within the African-American population, where heart disease and stroke are major health risks. Blacks have almost twice the risk of first-ever strokes compared to whites, and the prevalence of high blood pressure in African-Americans is the highest in the world.

To lead these awareness efforts, the Charlotte Region Power to End Stroke Task Force was created, chaired by Dr. Patrick Graham, CEO and president of the Charlotte Urban League. In March, 45 pastors and church leaders, representing 22 churches, attended a pastor training and breakfast to equip them with the tools and knowledge to lead the Power To End Stoke campaign's "Power Sundays" that would be held over the following two months. All 22 churches in attendance committed to host a Power Sunday or Power Event at their church between April 1 and May 31.

Participating churches included: New Emmanuel Congregational, Pleasant Hill BC, Unity Fellowship of Charlotte, Grier Heights Presbyterian, New Life Fellowship of Charlotte, Pleasant Grove Methodist, Jerusalem Holiness, East Stonewall AME Zion, Meeting Place, First Baptist West, Little Rock AME Zion, Rockwell AME Zion, Greenville Memorial AME Zion, Liberty Hill AME Zion, Greater Mt. Hebron BC in Gastonia, Friendship Christian Church in Gastonia, Unity Fellowship Church of Charlotte, Mount Vernon Missionary BC, Nations Ford, University Park BC, Clinton Chapel AME Zion, and CN Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church.




*Courtesy of American Stroke Association*

On June 18, the American Stroke Association held a "Hats Off To You" awards dinner to recognize the pastors and many other community leaders who helped make the program a success. Organizers want you to know these key messages from the Power To End Stroke campaign:

- In most cases stroke is not inevitable. You can prevent it.
- African-Americans are at higher risk for stroke.
- Know your risk. Control your blood pressure and diabetes to prevent stroke.
- Work with a healthcare provider to manager your risk.

If you would like to learn more about the Power to End Stroke and how you can get your church or organization involved, email regina.fleenor@heart.org or call 704-940-4018 (for North Carolina programs). Visit www.strokeassociation.org/power for more details. ■

# Shaw University Names First Female President

*From Staff Reports*

Shaw University has named Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy as its interim president, making her the first female to hold that position in the school's 144-year history. She replaces Clarence Newsome, who resigned from his presidency in May.

Dr. Yancy has plenty of experience at historically black colleges and universities, having served 14 years as president of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte before retiring in 2008, and a term as president of the 12-member Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association board (CIAA). She'll now be in charge of leading Shaw, but is expected to only hold the post for about a year to allow the university time to find a permanent president and so that she can return to retirement.



Dorothy Yancy
*Courtesy of Coke/CIAA*

She'll be looked upon to use her fundraising prowess as Shaw University is reported to be more than $20 million in debt. Shaw's Board of Trustees say they have confidence that she can help them turn things around at the 2,700-student university. During her tenure at Johnson C. Smith, Dr. Yancy raised more than $145 million and more than tripled the endowment from $14 million to $53 million.

Dr. Yancy holds a bachelor's degree in history and social science from Johnson C. Smith, a master's degree in history from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and a doctorate in political science from Atlanta University. In 2008, she was inducted into the Women's History Hall of Fame by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs and the Levine Museum of the New South. ■

# President / First Vice President

## Face the Challenges of Summer and the Economy

*Reverend Dr. Gregory K. Moss, Sr.*
*President GBSC*
*Gmoss1@bellsouth.net*
*(704) 334-5309*



Rev. Dr. Gregory K. **Moss, Sr.**

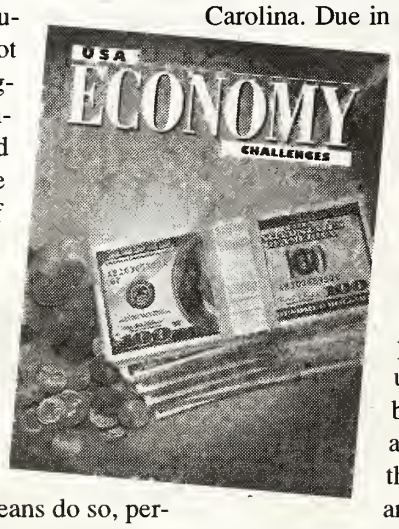
Greetings in the magnificent and marvelous name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The summer spells a busy time in the life of General Baptist wherein several activities are in full swing. In addition to numerous national events, our state oratorical contest took place at the John Fuller Education Facility in Fayetteville. Many young people participated in the event, displaying skills honed and developed in local contests. The exposure gained from participating on the state level will prove invaluable and serve them well in future venues.

The annual session of our Woman's Auxiliary will convene in Winston-Salem at the Benton Convention Center at the end of the month. During the session, the Auxiliary will elect a new slate of officers. This will be the first session held under the guidance of our new Woman's Executive Secretary Treasurer Dr. Linda Bryant. Dr. Bryant and the Auxiliary enjoy the full support and cooperation of the Parent Body. We stand ready to assist in any manner needed to ensure the success and effectiveness of this annual gathering.

On July 27, the Congress of Christian Education, Ushers, and Laymen Auxiliaries will meet in joint session. Their recognition of the challenges and forces confronting our work and the need for adjustment and change is to be commended. There will be a focus on mission and ministry seminar during the morning with emphasis on each auxiliary's role. A luncheon will be held in honor of the ushers' 60th anniversary. We are encouraging you to support the session and to be encouraged by the spirit of cooperation and commitment to ministry by these auxiliaries.

The slumping economy and several other factors challenged our resolve over the past few months. Most of our churches are being forced to revisit and reduce budgetary items in an effort to weather this "economic storm." Some churches have significantly cut back contributions and many do not give at all. May I suggest even in the toughest of times, our God remains faithful. In the wise economy of God's rule, He still provides, never forsaking the righteous nor forcing His seed to beg. Therefore I challenge you to hold steady. If there is a need to adjust your contributions, by all means do so, perhaps by the percentage you've adjusted locally. But guard against not contributing at any level. This is our family! She deserves our support.




Though there are many challenges to our work, the resolve and the unity of our convention remain intact. Many thanks are in order to our staff and in particular our EST, Dr. Haywood T. Gray, for his outstanding leadership and untiring commitment to the causes of General Baptist across North Carolina. Due in large measure to the great work of our staff and your support, we again received a clean audit report with the highest commendations. With your renewed commitment and support, we will continue to hold high the banner for missions and ministry across the state, the nation and the globe. We will weather the storms and will be stronger as a result of having "gone through" and remaining faithful. To God be the glory! ■

# *State Missions Is Kingdom-Focused*

*Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, D. Min.*
*First Vice-President*
*AveryRevKin@aol.com*
*(704) 637-0954*

To the beloved saints of the General Baptist family and all who love the Lord, the work, witness, worship, ministry, and mission of the Lord: "Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus the Christ our Lord." (1 Timothy 1:2b, NKJV)



Dr. Nilous **Avery, II**

The late Dr. Edward Victor Hill, former pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Los Angeles, California, was noted for often saying there were three books the church needed to carry out its kingdom mandate: the good book (Bible), the hymn book, and the pocketbook.

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus used parables to illustrate the kingdom of God. Jesus emphasized the stewardship of material possessions in 16 of the 38 parables in the Gospels. The importance of stewardship and its faithful, generous practice in kingdom building is replete throughout the scriptures. The writer in 2 Corinthians 9:11 reminds us that we are enriched by our generous and gracious God in order to be free and liberal givers. Liberality and generosity in giving are not optional; they're kingdom responsibilities.

John Maxwell notes that the scriptures challenge us to be liberal and generous in giving (*Stewardship Strategies*). Maxwell says we must support the ministry of God's kingdom building because:

- Giving is kingdom-focused (Matthew 6:33).
- Giving responds to needs (Romans 12).
- Giving is consistent and deliberate (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
- Giving enriches and benefits others (2 Corinthians 8:9).

General Baptists, the objective of State Missions *is* kingdom-focused, responsive to needs, constant and deliberate, and enriches and benefits the lives of others. You are State Missions! God has blessed us to bless our convention through State Missions. In turn, State Missions will be blessed to become a blessing through us, to us, and others. My brothers and sisters, we're blessed to become blessings. We're recipients of God's grace and generosity in order to become gracious and generous givers.

The biblical example of the Macedonians is a great model for kingdom ministry and stewardship. They weren't rich, but they were willing. God enhanced and empowered their willing spirit in a mighty way. As a result, God blessed them in order to be blessings for God. They were enriched by their willingness and generosity.

Please encourage your church, ministry, association, and community to support the convention, its objectives, and particularly State Missions. Remember, you are state missions! We await your generous and liberal support (financially, prayerfully) today! I'm looking forward to seeing and hearing from you soon. " ■

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

(Philippians 4:23, NKJV)

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# The Good that Can Come from Pain

*Rev. Ricky Banks*
*Third Vice-President*
*pastorrickbanks*
*@yahoo.com*
*(252) 335-5035*

No question about it, the hope of the glory of God sometimes seems far, far away! Paul anticipated this reaction in the Roman Christians so he addressed and attacked the problem at its heart. How are we to enjoy peace with God and to rejoice in our hope if we must suffer the pain and trouble that comes in this life? Paul wrote that as God's redeemed people, we rejoice in our sufferings, because they are productive within our lives.

Someone has said that suffering is always bitter and that suffering that is unjust is doubly bitter. But life is like that. Nothing in scripture hints that we Christians should expect life to be easier, more antiseptic, or safer. We need a mature awareness of the contributions of pain, as outlined by Dr. Brand, and we need the courage to cling to God despite the world of pain and sometimes because of it.



Rev. Ricky **Banks**

Even where pain seems to us to have no useful quality, we can recall that Jesus identified himself fully with those who suffered. When he became a man, he acted completely as one of us. He was born in poverty—that is pain; he died in disgrace—that is pain; and he counted it well worthwhile! If the Christ of our faith was made perfect through suffering, we should not be surprised that God's grace can and does bring us to a higher maturity through the hardest experience of life.

> "A Productive Approach to Life: Character."
> Romans 5:3-4

For many Christians, a favorite passage affirms this same theme: "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Paul did not say, as is sometimes mistakenly supposed, that all things are good, that they work out for good for everybody, or even that God causes every event to happen. These things are surely not true. Paul did mean in Romans 8:28 and in verses 3-4 of chapter 5 that God has a way of taking the coarsest or the best things that happen to the person who is in right relation with him and building through such experiences the kind of life that possesses an endurance and character akin to that of Jesus Christ.

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# *Raleigh Native Commemorated on U.S. Postage Stamp*

*By Jarvis Holliday*

The U.S. Postal Service has honored the late Anna Julia Cooper by making her the 32nd inductee into the Black Heritage Series. The educator, scholar, and activist, who died in 1964, is credited for being a strong voice for African-Americans from the end of slavery to the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. She was immortalized on postage on June 11 and a dedication ceremony was held in Washington, D.C. at the school where she once taught and served as principal.

Anna Julia Haywood was born into slavery around 1858 in Raleigh. She displayed a great thirst for knowledge during her childhood and is said to have stated early on that she wanted to become a teacher. In 1868, she received a scholarship to enter the inaugural class at St. Augustine's Normal School and Collegiate Institute (now known as St. Augustine's College), a local school for African-Americans. She earned part of her tuition by tutoring fellow students, and she continued to teach at St. Augustine's after graduating in 1877. That year she married George A.C. Cooper, who was studying for the ministry at St. Augustine's. George died unexpectedly two years later.

Cooper went on to earn a mathematics degree from Oberlin College in Ohio in 1884, becoming one of the first African-American women to graduate from the school. She returned to Raleigh and taught math, Greek, and Latin at St. Augustine's until 1887, when she was invited to teach math and science at the Preparatory High School for Colored Youth (today known as Dunbar High School) in Washington, D.C., the largest and most prestigious public high school for African-Americans in the nation.

In 1892, Cooper published *A Voice from the South by a Black Woman of the South*, a groundbreaking collection of essays and speeches that she is perhaps most known for. It was the first book-length volume of black feminist analysis in the United States, covering a variety of topics including race relations, poverty, and gender inequality.

She went on to teach at a number of schools and colleges before retiring in 1940. She continued to give lectures, publish essays, and be active in her community until she died at her home in Washington, D.C. in 1964. She is buried next to her husband in Raleigh.

The 44-cent First-Class Anna Julia Cooper commemorative stamp features a portrait of her created by artist Kadir Nelson, who based his painting on an undated photograph. A total of 125 million stamps




*Courtesy of USPS*

are available in sheets of 20 and can be purchased at many post offices nationwide or online at http://shop.usps.com. ■

# New Study Provides Insight Into Megachurches

*From Staff Reports*

There seems to often be confusion between what's fact and what's fiction when it comes to details surrounding many of this country's megachurches. Two organizations got together to find out the truth behind the numbers. Leadership Network and Hartford Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research have released the National Survey of Megachurch Attenders, the largest national representative study of megachurch attendees to date. Conducted from January to August 2008, the survey is based on responses from 24,900 worshippers at 12 megachurches across the United States. Additional site visits, interviews, staff surveys, and other data-collection procedures also contributed to the findings.

The published study, titled "Not Who You Think They Are: The Real Story of People Who Attend America's Megachurches," shows largely that megachurch attendees are a distinct group of people who create their own, customized spiritual experiences through the multitude of ministry choices and diverse avenues for involvement that megachurches offer.

Among the most significant discoveries from the study are:

-Nearly two-thirds of megachurch attendees are under 45 years old, as compared to only one-third for all protestant churches (62 percent versus 35 percent).

-Nearly a third of megachurch attendees are single, unmarried persons. In a typical church, singles account for just 10 percent of the congregation.

-Megachurch attendees are both more educated and more affluent than attendees at other churches.

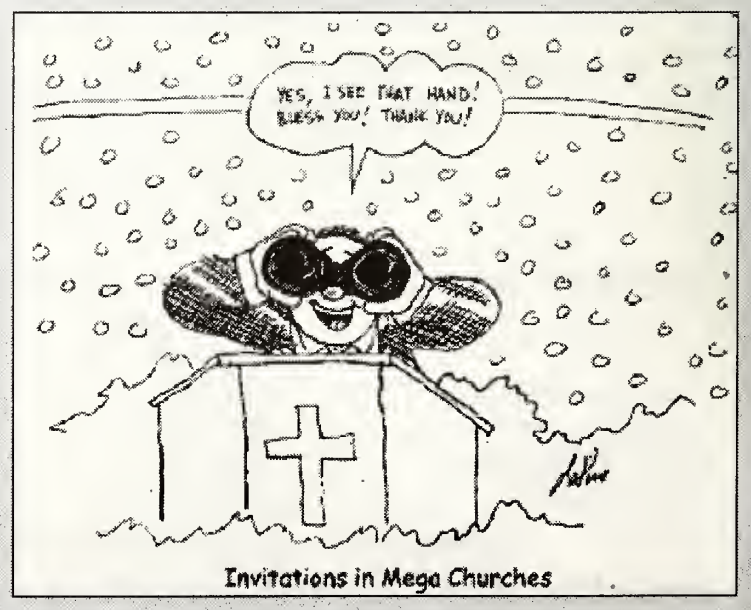
-The majority of megachurch attendees are not necessarily new to Christianity, but nearly a quarter had not recently been in another church before coming to a megachurch.

-While newcomers almost always attend a megachurch at the invitation of family, friends, or co-workers, the real attraction tends to be the church's reputation, worship style, and senior pastor.

-Long-term attendance flows from an appreciation for the church's music, arts, social, and community outreach, and adult-oriented programs.

-45 percent of megachurch attendees never volunteer at the church.

Many churches can glean useful information from the results of this study. Megachurches can evaluate how to improve on how it is connecting with attendees. While smaller, more traditional churches can evaluate the findings to determine how to reach more people who fall within the demographic of megachurch attendees. ■



# Christian Website Seeks Sermon Manuscripts for Publication

*From Press Release*

Christian Archives (www.christianarchives.org) recently announced plans to publish a collectible book of sermons. The sermon archive website is currently seeking sermon manuscripts to consider for inclusion in the book.

The collectible book will be available in November and the proceeds from book sales will be shared with a national Christian non-profit organization. The first book, in what is planned as an annual publication, will contain 25 inspirational sermons chosen from materials submitted by pastors worldwide.

"We are reaching out to the Christian community, churches, and pastors to invite and welcome their participation in this book by submitting the sermon manuscript of their choice," explains Brian Callahan, co-founder of Christian Archives. "Our hope is to put together a book that will provide years of inspirational reading."

Christian Archives requests that all materials be submitted as a Word document and not exceed 2,500 words. All submissions should include the author's name, short bio, church name, sermon title, email address, and phone number. The file and information should be emailed to sermons@christianarchives.org, and the submission deadline is July 31.

Christian Archives was developed by a small group of Christians who recognized that many inspirational sermons, once given, were essentially lost. Even if recorded or videotaped, these sermons were often saved on tape, CD, or even DVD and gathering dust on a shelf somewhere, never to be heard again. Christian Archives offers a solution to that problem with its free Internet-based service that allows churches the ability to store and access millions of digital, audio, and video sermon files online, at any time.

"If sharing and inspiring through a sermon works well one day a week, then why not make that same sermon available seven days a week?" asks Dallen Wendt, co-founder of Christian Archives. "Better yet, why not make that sermon available to any Christian online? That is why we created Christian Archives."

In addition to sermon archiving, Christian Archives also provides a custom web page for church members at no cost. Each custom web page is home to the archives of the specific church. The custom web page makes it easy for churches to seamlessly link their websites to their archives, and back again. If a church does not have a website they can also use their custom web page as their website.

For more information, visit www.christianarchives.org call 866-937-3331. ■

> "We are reaching out to the Christian community, churches, and pastors to invite and welcome their participation in this book by submitting the sermon manuscript of their choice," explains Brian Callahan, co-founder of Christian Archives.


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- Able to play Organ/Keyboard/Piano
- Have knowledge of appropriate traditional, contemporary gospel and hymns
- The ability to teach a range of voice parts
- Be available for morning, evening and special services (funerals, visiting engagements, etc.)
- Provide references and pass background check

*Any other duties specified by the Pastor*

**Mail Resume To:**

**Saint Hope Missionary Baptist Church**
**Attention: Ms. Doris Whitehead**
**7337 Church Bend Road**
**Spring Hope, NC 27882**
**Or Email: Sainthopembc@embarqumail.com**

## PASTORAL VACANCY

**Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Inc. of Reidsville, NC**

Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church located at 179 Jones Chapel Road, Reidsville, North Carolina has a pastoral vacancy. The church was founded in 1867 and established in 1872. The approximately 200 member congregation is seeking pastoral leadership that meets the following qualifications.

- Licensed and ordained Baptist Minister
- At least five years of ministerial experience
- Bible College Degree
- Teach as well as preach god's Word
- Spirit-filled and God-fearing
- Interested in winning souls to Christ
- Excellent leadership skills
- Broad knowledge of the Baptist doctrine and polity
- Willingness to follow the Church Bylaws
- Visionary in church growth and development
- Live Christ-like inside and outside the church
- Skilled spiritual counselor with high moral integrity
- Involved in Local, State and National Baptist Associations
- Excellent communication skills
- Provide for spiritual growth for ALL age groups, especially for youth
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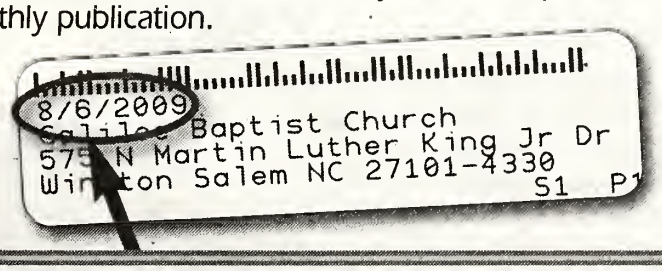
***How to apply:***

All interest and qualified persons should submit resumes on or before **June 30, 2009** TO:

**Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church; C/o Pastoral Search Committee**
**179 Jones Chapel Road**
**Reidsville, NC 27320**

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## Pastoral Vacancy

**WHETSTONE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**
**Oxford, NC**

Whetstone Missionary Baptist Church is a rural church of approximately 150 member - Services are held each second and fourth Sunday

*Qualifications:*

Licensed and ordained in the Baptist Denomination
Degree from an accredited Seminary or School of Theology
Must have at least 3 – 5 years experience as an Ordained Minister

*Skills:*

- Gifted teacher – Bible Study and Sunday School
- Good leadership skills
- Good communication skills
- Ability to counsel
- Committed to the needs of the flock

***Interested persons should submit a resume to:***

Whetstone Baptist Church; C/o Salinder W. Broady
Pastor Search Committee, Chairperson
7549 Cornwall Road
Oxford, North Carolina 27565

Deadline for all submissions is **June 30, 2009**

## Pastoral Vacancy

**PINEY WOOD CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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5. Married to a Christian spouse
6. Family, community and politically oriented
7. Effective working with all age groups in the church
8. Bachelor's Degree in Theology from an accredited college or university
9. Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Denomination
10. Believes/abides by the Missionary Baptist Doctrines, policies and Church Covenant
11. Supportive of the association and the General Baptist State Convention
12. Expected to teach, preach & counsel in word and deed to all age groups in the church
13. Able to guide the critical management functions of the church spiritually, intellectually and financially
14. Willing to submit to a criminal background check and credit report
15. Visionary and trained in setting goals for the continued growth of the church
16. Implements policies fairly and consistently and respects individuals needs and abilities
17. Supports church functions including Sunday School, Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
18. Visits the sick and shut in (hospitalized, homes and nursing homes)

The ending date to receive applications is July 31, 2009 Please forward all correspondences to:

**Search Committee**
**Piney Wood Chapel Baptist Church**
**C/o Deacon William Ward, Jr.**
**P.O. Box 235**
**Powellsville, NC 27967**


# The Baptist Informer

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THEME: *"By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness..."* (II Corinthians 6:7)

BAPTIST Informer

# What Church Will the Obamas Choose?

Nearly six months into his presidency, President Barack Obama has yet to announce which church in the Washington, D.C. area he and his family will attend during their four years (or more) in the White House. A *Washington Post* article in April, reported that the Obamas had narrowed their choice down to three churches: two Methodist churches and one Baptist. But not many details have been mentioned since.



Courtesy of WhiteHouse.gov

It's completely understandable that President Obama would want to be careful in deciding his house of worship. The church that he attended in Chicago for several years and, more specifically, its pastor became a huge focus during his presidential campaign. But perhaps as a sign of the times we're living in, the countdown for the Obamas' pick of their family dog (they chose a Portuguese Water Dog named Bo) has received more attention than their selection of family church.

BAPTIST Informer
603 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
USPS 042-680

## Upcoming Events

**• July 10-11 •**
Annual Laymen's Men and Boys Retreat
M. Rouse Jr. Community Resource Center
Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church
373 Pittman Grove Church Road
Raeford, NC

**• July 27 •**
Congress of Christian Education Annual Session
Laymen's League Annual Session
Ushers Annual Session
Location TBA
Winston-Salem, NC

**• July 27-31 •**
125th Annual Session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention
M.C. Benton Convention Center
301 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC

**• August 10-14 •**
112th Annual Session of Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention
Raleigh Convention Center
500 South Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC

10/30/2010
SE Baptist Theo Seminary
114 N Wingate St
Wake Forest NC 27587-2553
S18 P17